

CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Monitoring Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, May 29, 2013 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Large Conference Room
 Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)
 3535 Harbor Blvd., Suite 110, Costa Mesa



IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!

Meetings of the Monitoring Council are open to the public. Times indicated in the agenda are approximate. The order of agenda items is subject to change. Actions of the Monitoring Council are advisory to the Secretaries of the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency.

Handouts, presentations, and related meeting and Monitoring Council information will be available prior to or after the meeting at http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/meetings.

Remote access to the meeting will be available via WebEx. To join the WebEx on-line meeting, click on this link <https://waterboards.webex.com/waterboards/j.php?ED=208567427&UID=0&PW=NZjg5OTAxNTYy&RT=MIM0>, enter your name and email address, enter the meeting password "cwqmc", click "Join Now" and follow the instructions that appear on your screen. You may log in up to 15 minutes before the meeting starts to allow WebEx to set up the meeting connection. WebEx will automatically set up Meeting Manager the first time you join a WebEx meeting. Participation by teleconference only is available by dialing (888) 764-9721 and entering the attendee access code 363 618 0.

For a map to SCCWRP, driving directions, and accommodations information, visit www.sccwrp.org/view.php?id=39. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project at (714) 755-3200.

ITEM:	1	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING	10 minutes
Purpose:	1) Introductions (in the room and on the phone) 2) Review draft notes from May 7, 2013 Monitoring Council meeting 3) Review agenda for today's meeting	
Desired Outcome:	a) Approve November 28, 2012 Monitoring Council meeting notes b) Preview what will be covered today and overall meeting expectations c) Adjust today's agenda, as needed	
Attachment Links:	Draft notes from March 7, 2013 Council meeting	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	Jon.Marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , 916-341-5514

ITEM:	2	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES	80 minutes
Purpose:	These are expected to be brief informational items that could be expanded into more detailed discussions for future meetings: a) Filling the vacancy on the Monitoring Council representing citizen monitoring organizations (Jon Marshack)	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Update on USEPA Healthy Watersheds Initiative, California Project (Lori Weber) c) Launch of updated California Wetlands Portal and EcoAtlas (Jon Marshack) d) New Domain name for the My Water Quality website, portals, and Monitoring Council Information (Jon Marshack) e) Application of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to the Monitoring Council (Jon Marshack) f) Update on the Safe Drinking Water Workgroup and development of a Safe-to-Drink Portal to be linked from the My Water Quality website (Mark Emmerson) g) California Environmental Data Exchange Network, CEDEN (Steve Steinberg) h) Other announcements and updates related to the Monitoring Council's mission pursuant to Senate Bill 1070, statutes of 2006
Desired Outcome:	a) Information, comments and questions
Background:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) In February, Jon Norton tendered his resignation from the Monitoring Council. A vacancy announcement was posted in March and four persons applied for the position. The Monitoring Council Co-Chairs reviewed the applications and decided to interview the top two candidates. Those interviews will occur in June. b) At the March 7 Monitoring Council meeting, Corey Godfrey of Cadmus Group, contractors to USEPA, to present preliminary results of their multi-metric analysis of California watershed health. The Monitoring Council provided comment that the final Healthy Watersheds Assessment report should: stress the strengths and limitations of the analysis; identify where California needs to augment its monitoring efforts to allow future assessments to more accurately reflect watershed health and vulnerability; and identify where models perform poorly. The Monitoring Council's Healthy Streams Partnership met with Cadmus and USEPA on April 19 to further review results the analysis and provided specific recommendations. c) At the March 7 Monitoring Council meeting, Meredith Williams of SFEI presented a new proposed California Wetlands Portal and a new version of its data engine Wetland Tracker, called EcoAtlas. The Monitoring Council provided recommendations that the map layers in both tools clearly differentiate between currently farmed lands and functional wetlands in the Delta and elsewhere in the state and obtain Monitoring Council concurrence via email prior to public release. The Wetland Monitoring Workgroup proposed that the map interface show Delta wetlands as "palustrine farmed" and that disclaimer language be added that states that the CARI map is not intended for regulatory purposes and does not serve as a jurisdictional delineation. This proposed solution was sent back to Monitoring Council members for review. Co-Chair Jonathan Bishop has rejected this proposal. Instead, the Wetland Workgroup will implement the Monitoring Council's fallback recommendation, which is to gray-out the Delta area and to add a disclaimer that wetlands will be shown in the Delta once more detailed maps of the area become available. The new California Wetlands Portal and EcoAtlas are scheduled to be made available to the public in mid-June. d) To further reinforce the fact that the Monitoring Council is a multi-agency effort, rather than an outgrowth of the Water Boards, the presence of all

	<p>Monitoring Council and workgroup information and the <i>My Water Quality</i> portals are being moved to a new web address that does not have any direct connection with the Water Boards' website. The new web address, www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov, is expected to be launched by the end of May.</p> <p>e) At the May 2009 meeting, Monitoring Council Members asked that a number of legal questions be answered. Then Assistant Chief Council of the State Water Board Ted Cobb and Staff Council Nathan Jacobsen provided responses, which Jon Marshack summarized to the Council Members in the form of a memorandum, dated July 6, 2009. The first section of the memo addresses application of the Open Meeting Act to the Monitoring Council.</p> <p>f) A workgroup and portal devoted to the safety of water for drinking and related uses were envisioned as part of the Monitoring Council's recommended <i>Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California</i>. The Department of Public Health, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management is leading this effort. Funding is being supplied by the State Water Board for portal development assistance by staff of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project and the Water Education Foundation (WEF). A workgroup has been assembled, drawing staff from CDPH, WEF, the State Water Board, Department of Water Resources, the Association of California Water Agencies, Environment Now, and the Carmichael Water District. An update on this effort and a list of portal questions were presented to the Monitoring Council at the November 29, 2012 meeting. The workgroup held its second meeting on February 25 to review the text of a portal mockup created by WEF, CDPH, and SCCWRP.</p> <p>g) Managed by the State Water Board, CEDEN is a central location to find and share information about California's water bodies, including streams, lakes, rivers, and the coastal ocean. Many groups in California monitor water quality, aquatic habitat, and wildlife health to ensure good stewardship of our ecological resources. CEDEN aggregates these data and makes it accessible to environmental managers and the public.</p>	
<p>Attachment Links</p>	<p>a) Monitoring Council Governance (see Section B, Membership)</p> <p>b) Draft notes from March 7, 2013 Council meeting (see item 6)</p> <p>c) Draft notes from March 7, 2013 Council meeting (see item 3)</p> <p>e) Legal Questions and Answers, memorandum of July 6, 2009</p> <p>f) Safe to Drink Workgroup web page Draft notes from November 28, 2012 Council meeting (see Item 4)</p> <p>g) CEDEN Website</p>	
<p>Contact Person:</p>	<p>Jon Marshack</p>	<p>Jon.Marshack@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 341-5514</p>

<p>ITEM:</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Approx. Time:</p>
<p>Title of Topic:</p>	<p>CALIFORNIA ESTUARIES PORTAL MOCKUP</p>	
<p>Purpose:</p>	<p>Stephanie Fong of the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA) will present a mock-up of a proposed California Estuaries Portal to be linked from the My Water Quality website</p>	

Desired Outcome:	Approval to build the portal	
Background:	At the August 2012 Monitoring Council meeting, Val Connor of SFCWA provided an update on the efforts of the Estuary Monitoring Workgroup to develop a web portal that will present monitoring data and assessment information on the health of California's estuaries, with an initial focus on the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. Amye Osti of 34 North demonstrated the workgroup's internal website, which provides a toolbox that allows workgroup members to bring together data, maps, reports, and other information and to use them to develop of the stories that will be presented in the new portal. The Monitoring Council provided positive feedback on the efforts of the workgroup and the web tools they are using.	
Attachment Links:	Notes from August 29, 2012 Council meeting (see item 6)	
Contact Persons:	Stephanie Fong	SFong@sfcwa.org , (916) 400-4840

ITEM:	4	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MONITORING COUNCIL, WORKGROUPS, AND MY WATER QUALITY INTERNET PORTALS	60 minutes
Purpose:	Jon Marshack will present the draft progress report for approval	
Desired Outcome:	Approval of the annual report to the Secretaries of the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency	
Background:	<p>At the March 7, 2013 Monitoring Council meeting, Jon Marshack made a presentation regarding progress made in 2012 by the Monitoring Council and its eight workgroups to improve California's program to monitor and assess the quality of our waters and the health of associated ecosystem and to provide the resulting data and information to decision makers and the public via the Internet. The Monitoring Council provided direction that the report will present accomplishments (50%), challenges (25%), and opportunities on the horizon for which agency managers help is needed to achieve success (25%).</p> <p>The legislation also calls on the Cal/EPA Secretary, in consultation with the Natural Resources Secretary, to conduct a triennial audit of the effectiveness of the monitoring program strategy. The annual progress reports are intended to assist the Agency Secretaries with this audit.</p>	
Attachment Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft notes from March 7, 2013 Council meeting (see item 7) • Draft 2012 Annual Progress Report to the Agency Secretaries • 2012 Monitoring Council Workgroup Annual Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safe Drinking Water Workgroup ○ Safe to Swim Workgroup ○ Bioaccumulation Oversight Group (Safe to Eat Fish and Shellfish) ○ Wetland Monitoring Workgroup ○ Healthy Streams Partnership 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Estuary Monitoring Workgroup o Data Management Workgroup o Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network
Contact Persons:	Jon Marshack Jon.Marshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

LUNCH	Approx. Time:
Lunch will be provided at SCCWRP. A donation of \$10 is requested to cover costs.	60 minutes

ITEM:	5	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAMS: AREAS OF SPECIAL BIOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE (ASBS)	60 minutes
Purpose:	Ken Schiff will present the monitoring plan for ASBS	
Desired Outcome:	Information and discussion	
Background:	<p>Over the course of several meetings, the Monitoring Council has heard from many collaborative regional monitoring programs regarding how they were formed, what made them successful, and the challenges they face. The goal has been to elucidate the reasons why some collaborative regional monitoring efforts are successful and whether and how those successes can benefit or be transferred to other monitoring efforts.</p> <p>The State Water Board has created 34 Areas of Biological Significance (ASBS) in order to preserve and protect especially valuable biological communities in our coastal and ocean waters. Even though the California Ocean Plan prohibits the discharge of waste to ASBS, a survey conducted by SCCWRP has observed approximately 1,658 outfalls in and near these areas. As a result, the State Water Board has initiated regulatory actions, establishing special protections through the Ocean Plan's exception process. The intent of these regulatory actions is to maintain natural water quality within the ASBS.</p> <p>Both ASBS dischargers and regulators face a lack of information in at least three categories. First, it is uncertain what constitutes natural water quality. Second, it is uncertain which discharges exceed natural water quality limits. Third, it is uncertain to what level discharges outside of ASBS may impinge on ASBS areas. These indirect discharges are often independent of ASBS direct discharges that are the focal point of ASBS regulation.</p> <p>Monitoring requirements focus on the creation of regional monitoring programs as the most cost effective way to assessing water quality in ASBS. Programs are being put in place to assess reference sites and to impacts to ASBS in three coastal areas – Southern, Central, and Northern California.</p>	
Contact Person:	Ken Schiff kens@sccwrp.org ; (714) 755-3202	

ITEM:	6	Approx. Time:
--------------	----------	----------------------

Title of Topic:	qPCR METHODS FOR BACTERIAL INDICATOR MONITORING	60 minutes
Purpose:	Steve Weisberg will present information regarding new genetic quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) methods for bacterial indicator monitoring of swimming safety at beaches and of shellfish beds	
Desired Outcome:	Introduction to these methods	
Background:	New national recommended water quality criteria from USEPA for the protection of contact recreational uses of water recently opened the door for using qPCR methods. Standard bacterial culture methods are slow to produce results. As a result, there is a substantial delay between the time of sampling and the ability of health officials to use the data to post beaches as potentially unsafe for swimming or to warn of potential health issues from eating shellfish from specific locations. New methods, such as qPCR, can provide results more rapidly, even on the same day that samples were taken, allowing more timely information to be given to decision makers and the public.	
Attachment Links:	USEPA 2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria news release • Criteria fact sheet 	
Contact Person:	Steve Weisberg	steve@scwarp.org ; (714) 755-3203

ITEM:	7	Approx. Time:
Title of Topic:	MEETING WRAP-UP	15 minutes
Purpose:	Plan agenda for May 29, 2013 Monitoring Council meeting in Costa Mesa. Potential items include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Update on the USEPA Healthy Watersheds Initiative, California Project to assess watersheds throughout the state and identify healthy watersheds 2) Update on potential state stewardship for California's portion of the National Hydrography Dataset and the National Wetlands Inventory (Jonathan Bishop and Dale Hoffman-Floerke) 3) California Estuaries Portal review and request for public release 4) Safe to Drink Portal mockup review and request to build the site 5) Development of Monitoring Council recommendations to improve grant project monitoring, data management, assessment, and reporting 6) Water Board new effort to gather groundwater monitoring data in support of a future groundwater protection strategy (Eric Oppenheimer, John Borkovich) 7) Monitoring Council and workgroup role in a proposed Delta Science Plan for organizing and integrating ongoing scientific research, monitoring, analysis, and data management among entities involved in the Delta 8) Ocean Ecosystem Health <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Plans for Ocean Ecosystem Workgroup and new Ocean Health Portal b) Marine Protected Area (MPA) Monitoring Enterprise (Liz Whiteman) 	

	9) Department of Fish & Game monitoring (Glenda Marsh, Adam Ballard, Robert Holmes, Josh Grover, Chad Dibble, Pete Ode, Tom Lupo) a) Coordination b) Financial support c) Flow d) Data Management – CEDEN for water quality data? e) Monitoring Council endorsement of collaboration?	
	10) Possibility of holding an annual conference. A representative from the Maryland Monitoring Council should be invited to participate by phone (see May 2012 notes , Item 2d)	
Desired Outcome:	Develop agenda for the next meeting	
Contact Person:	Jon Marshack	jmarshack@waterboards.ca.gov , (916) 341-5514

ADJOURN

May 17, 2013